(c) Development and adoption of appropriate varieties of crops like bajra, pulses, oilseeds and more viable agricultural systems such as agro-forestry, agri-horticulture, silvi pastoral system, etc. are being promoted in Rajasthan under various schemes, namely Drought Prone Area Development Programme, Desert Development Programme, National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas, World Bank aided Integrated Watershed Development Programme (Plains), National Pulses Development Programme and Oil seeds Development Programme.

Burning of Rail coaches

*290. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of rail coaches were burnt out at New Delhi Railway Station during the last two months;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the causes of the incidents?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) and (b) Two coaches were involved in fire at New Delhi Station. The fires occurred on 10-7-91 and 11-7-91. While one coach suffered heavy damage the other was partially burnt.

(c) The cause of fire in these two cases has not yet been established.

Development of New Strains of Crops

*291. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that new rice strains are being introduced elsewhere in the world, incorporating both high-yield and better disease resistance;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the International Rice Institute in Manila has offered such strains;

(c) what are the steps being taken to pay attention towards better strains of rice and other food crops; and

(d) whether there is any monitoring body to keep track and apprise Government of such developments?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): (a) Yes, Sir. Rice strains incorporating high yield and better disease resistance are being introduced in various countries of the world including India.

(b) Yes Sir.

(c) Better strains of rice and other food crops are being continuously developed in India having high yield and resistance to disease and pests. Need based high yielding varieties of different food crops are evolved to suit varying agroclimatic conditions based on effective testing under All India Crop Improvement Projects. Required quantity of breeder seed is also produced to meet the requirement of different states.

(d) Yes Sir.

Reimbursement of Capital share invested in Cooperative Sugar Factories to Maharashtra

*292. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Cooperative Development Corporation is expected to reimburse 65 per cent and 50 percent of share capital invested by the State Government towards cooperative sugar factories in backward and developed respectively;

(b) whether it is also a fact that such reimbursement to the Government of Maharashtra for more than nine cooperative sugar factories out of sanctioned 38 new licences in the cooperative sector is still pending due to inadequate funds with NCDC; and

(c) if so, what further action Government propose to take to enable speedy